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CARE OF WOOD FLOORS

Wood floors with fine finishes, such as shellac, varnish, or floor seal, combined with wax, should never be scrubbed with water. Sweeping or dry mopping should be all that is necessary.

To make a good dry floor mop, the Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recommends barely dampening a soft cotton mop with a mixture consisting of three parts of kerosene and one part of paraffin oil. When the mop becomes dirty, it should be washed in hot soap and water, dried, and again dampened with the mixture of kerosene and paraffin oil.

Exceptional patches of dirt that cannot be removed in this way may be taken off by rubbing the area lightly with fine steel wool moistened with turpentine. Where the finish is one of the new floor seals, badly soiled spots, such as gray spots where water has stood on the floor for a time, can be sanded by hand, patched with seal, and buffed with a pad of steel wool. Then, if the rest of the floor is waxed, they should be waxed.

Varnish finish, if kept in good condition, offers protection against water scars; but if it does become stained it is not so easily repaired.

The wood experts of the Forest Products Laboratory recommend renewing a wax finish every 4 to 6 months, depending on the amount of wear on the floor.

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